

Application No.: 10/748,567

Case No.: 58690US002

Amendments to the Specification

Please amend the specification as follows:

On page 1, please replace the paragraph that starts on line 24 with the words "U.S. Patent" and ends on page 3, line 10 with the word "protected" with the following amended paragraph:

~~U.S. Patent Application No. 10/179,602 filed June 25, 2002 U.S. Patent No. 6,742,562~~
(Pitzen) (the content whereof is incorporated herein by reference) describes a device for applying tape from a roll of tape (e.g., masking tape) along a surface to be protected with an edge of the tape extending along a juncture between the surface to be protected and a surface to be treated. That device is sufficiently inexpensive that it can be used by most homeowners or the like, applies the tape at a desired location with great accuracy, and can provide versatility in that the tape can be applied while moving the device in either of two directions along the surface to be protected without repositioning the roll of tape in the device. That device includes a housing around a roll of tape comprising two housing side portions, each housing side portion having a tape contact part of an inner surface for the housing side portion in a first plane along which a side of the tape wound around the core is positioned, and having in a second plane a guide part of an outer surface for the housing side portion, which guide part of the outer surface is adapted to be slid along the surface to be treated. The first and second planes on each of the housing side portions can be at a small angle with respect to each other (i.e., in the range of about 1 to 4 degrees such as about 1.5 degrees) and disposed to intersect along an application side of the housing. The device also includes a pressure application structure having opposite end portions (e.g., each end portion can comprise a pressure roller), which pressure application structure has a peripheral surface that is arcuate (e.g., generally cylindrical about an axis when pressure rollers are used), and has outer edges at the ends of its peripheral surface. The pressure application structure is mounted on the housing with the peripheral surfaces of end portions of the pressure application structure generally in alignment, with a part of the peripheral surface of each of the end portions at or closely adjacent to its outer edge at the intersection of the first and second planes for a different adjacent one of the side portions of the housing, and with the arcuate peripheral surface of the end portion of the pressure application structure disposed at an angle of

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no greater than 90 degrees with respect to the adjacent second plane (i.e., disposed at an angle in the range of about 80 to 90 degrees such as 87.5 degrees with respect to that second plane) and projecting from the housing at the intersection of the first and second planes. Means are provided for attaching the side portions of the housing together and for journaling the roll of tape between the side portions of the housing with the tape contact part of the inner surface for each housing portion along a different one of side surfaces of the wound length of tape included in the roll of tape. Means are also provided for defining a path for the length of tape from the periphery of the roll of tape to the periphery of the pressure application structure with the edges of the tape at or adjacent the intersections of the first and second planes and with adhesive included in the tape on the side of a backing included in the tape opposite the pressure application structure so that the dispenser can be manually positioned with either portion of the housing against the surface to be treated and moved along the surfaces to be treated and protected to accurately apply and press the tape from the roll of tape on the surface to be protected with the peripheral surface of the pressure application structure and with one edge of the tape at a predetermined relationship with respect to the juncture between the surface to be protected and the surface to be treated. Each end portion of the pressure application structure can have an end surface projecting in the range of about 0.005 to 0.02 inch or 0.01 to 0.05 centimeter beyond the intersection of the first and second planes. That end surface can move along a surface to be treated and provide a predetermined small spacing along the surface to be protected between the surface to be treated and the adjacent edge of the tape being applied to the surface to be protected. That space is useful to insure that the surface to be treated is fully treated (e.g., if the surface to be treated is a wall being painted, the thickness of the edge of the tape will not prevent the paint from extending along the wall to the intersection between the wall and the surface to be protected).

On page 3, please replace the paragraph that starts on line 11 with the word "While" and ends on line 24 with the word "device" with the following amended paragraph:

While the device described in ~~U.S. Patent application No. 10/179,602~~ U.S. Patent No. 6,742,562 can accurately apply tape, it requires providing a close tolerance between the tape contact parts of the inner surfaces of the housing portions and the side surfaces of the roll of tape

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to be applied by the device. A wide variance normally occurs during production in widths of different rolls of tape of the same nominal width (e.g., plus or minus 0.06 inch or 0.15 cm). This means that when the device is being produced either the device is produced with the tape contact parts of the inner surfaces for the housing side portions at a predetermined spacing and rolls of tape for use in the device must be selected from production rolls that have widths in a close tolerance range, or means must be provided for attaching the portions of the housing together that can provide a close tolerance between the tape contact parts of the inner surfaces of the housing portions and the side surfaces of a roll of tape placed in it despite those variances in the widths of various production rolls of tape, either of which approaches can add cost to the structure and/or assembly of the device.

On page 3, please replace the paragraph that starts on line 27 with the words "The present" and ends on page 4, line 5 with the word "width" with the following amended paragraph:

The present invention provides a device for applying tape from a roll of tape (e.g., masking tape) along a surface to be protected with an edge of the tape extending along a juncture between the surface to be protected and a surface to be treated that is disposed at about a right angle with respect to the surface to be protected, which device has some structure that is similar to the structure of the device described in ~~U.S. Patent Application No. 10/179,602~~ U.S. Patent No. 6,742,562, but includes a novel pressure application structure that can apply the tape at exact desired locations with great accuracy, and can apply the tape while moving the device in either of two directions along the surface to be protected, but does not require providing as close a tolerance between tape contact parts of inner surfaces for housing side portions and a roll of tape to be applied by the device, thereby better accommodating the wide variance in widths of different production rolls of tape of the same nominal width.

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On page 11, please replace the paragraph that starts on line 31 with the word "Alternatively" and ends on page 12, line 11 with the words "device 10" with the following amended paragraph:

Alternatively, the device 10 could use any of the several means for attaching the portions 26 of the housing together described in ~~U.S. Patent Application No. 10/179,602~~ U.S. Patent No. 6,742,562 (the content whereof is incorporated herein by reference) that provide a close tolerance between the tape contact parts 28 of the inner surfaces of the housing portions 26 and the side surfaces of the roll 16 of tape when tape is being applied by the device 10, while accommodating the wide variance in thickness of different rolls 16 of tape of the same nominal width. The means for attaching the portions 26 of the housing together described in ~~application no. 10/179,602~~ U.S. Patent No. 6,742,562 are not needed in the device 10, however, because the pattern of pressure applied to the tape being applied by the peripheral surface of the roller 34 along its edge adjacent the surface to be treated will cause the roll 16 of tape to move axially to a position along the inner surface of the housing portion 26 adjacent the surface 15 to be treated to provide the desired accurate placement of that edge of the tape by the device 10.